

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 12, 2003 (Paper No. 5). Upon entry of this First Response, claims 1-31 remain pending in this application. However, claims 8-13 and 22-31 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Reexamination, reconsideration, and allowance of the application and all presently pending elected claims are respectfully requested.

Election/Restriction

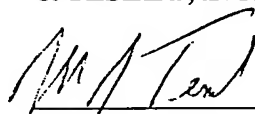
The outstanding Office Action requires a restriction to one of the following groups: Group I (claims 1-7 and 14-21) or Group II claims (8-13 and 22-31). To comply with the election/restriction requirement in the Office Action, Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-7 and 14-21). However, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-7 (Group I) are drawn to a distributed Bragg reflector (DBR), and not to a vertical-cavity laser as stated in the Office Action.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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